

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

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SCCT-01 IO-13 EUR-12 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SAM-01 /102 W

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 30

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTHLNAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUTT 6594

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 25: AL-ORGANIZED CEASEFIRE INITIALLY

SOMEWHAT SUCCESSFUL DESPITE OPPOSITION AND SKEPTICISM

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REF: BEIRUT 6577

1. SUMMARY: CEASE FIRE ARRANGED BY ARAB LEAGUE BEGAN 0800 LOCAL JULY 25. QUIET REPORTED AS OF 1200 NOON LOCAL, BUT LATE WORD INDICATES SAUDI AL FORCES RECEIVED MACHINEGUN FIRE WHILE DEPLOYING. PLO, KATAEB AND AL REPORTEDLY AGREED ON STEP-BY-STEP EXTENSION OF AL FORCE DEPLOYMENTS AND REOPENING OF VARIOUS FACILITIES TO POPULATIONS OF BOTH SIDES. MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES SKEPTICAL CEASEFIRE WILL HOLD. KATAEB SAYS SUCCESS OF CEASEFIRE WILL DEPEND ON PROGRESS AT DAMASCUS TALKS. ASSAD EMISSARY BELIEVES ONLY AL "STRIKE FORCE" CAN SUCCEED. JUMBLATT REVIVES DEMAND FOR SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL AND ASKED AL DEPUTY KHOLI TO ARRANGE STATIONING AL FORCES BETWEEN SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS AS WELL AS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND LEFT. PRESS SPECULATES THAT DAMASCUS TALKS APPROACHING THREE-POINT PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN ACCORD, NOTABLY RETURN TO CAIRO ACCORDS ON PALESTINIAN STATUS. TALK OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL NOTABLY ABSENT. FIVE HUNDRED PERSONS ALLEGEDLY TRAPPED UNDERGROUND AT TELL ZAATAR. END SUMMARY.

2. JULY 25 REGARDED AS "TEST DAY" FOR CORAL BEACH CEASEFIRE ACCORD SIGNED JULY 23 BETWEEN PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND KATAEB. AGREEMENT, WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT AT 0800 HOURS LOCAL, BASED ON SEVEN POINTS INTENDED FOR THREE STAGE APPLICATION. SEVEN POINTS ARE: 1) RETURN TO NORMALITY IN BEIRUT BY FREE PASSAGE BETWEEN ZONES, RESUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY BY DELIVERY OF FUEL FROM ZAHRANI TO THERMAL CENTER AT ZOUK, PROTECTION AND REOPENING OF BANK OF LEBANON, AND REOPENING OF BEIRUT PORT; 2) REOPENING OF AIRPORT; 3) RESOLUTION OF HOT POINTS FROM TELL ZAATAR TO MT. LEBANON; 4) ELIMINATION OF FORTIFICATIONS THROUGHOUT BEIRUT; 5) HALT TO PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS OPPOSING SYRIA TO PALESTINIANS; 6) APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS AND ITS ANNEXES; AND 7) OPENING OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE AMONG ALL PARTIES. STAGES OF APPLICATION ARE: 1) EXTENSION OF BUFFER ZONE IN MUSEUM AREA; 2) PLACEMENT OF AL FORCES ALONG ENTIRE CONFRONTATION LINE FROM HAZMIEH TO HARBOR; AND 3) REOPENING OF BEIRUT PORT AND AIRPORT. FATHER OF ACCORD, AL'S HASSAN SABRI KHOLI, SAYS FURTHER AL FORCES WILL BE BEEFED UP FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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CURRENT 2300 LEVEL, OF WHICH SOME 550 NOW IN MUSEUM AREA, REST STILL AT BEIRUT AIRPORT. ALEXANDRE GEMAYEL WHO SIGNED ACCORD FOR KATAEB AND ABU HASSAN WHO SIGNED FOR PALESTINIANS SCHEDULED MEET WITH KHOLI JULY 28 TO DISCUSS LIFTING SEIGE OF TELL ZAATAR AND REOPENING AIRPORT. AS OF 1200 LOCAL JULY 25, BEIRUT RADIO STATIONS REPORT CALM ON ALL FRONTS.

3. RELUCTANCE OF CHAMOUN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY TO SIGN CEASEFIRE OR ATTEND CORAL BEACH SESSIONS SEEN HERE AS VERY NEGATIVE SIGN ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT SPOILER ROLE PLAYED SO OFTEN IN PAST BY EXTREME RIGHT. GUARDIANS OF CEDARS, ONCE DESCRIBED BY BACHIR GEMAYEL AS "KATAEB REJECTIONIST FRONT" ALSO REFUSES CEASEFIRE, SAYING TELL ZAATAR OPERATION MUST FIRST BE COMPLETED. RADIO KATAEB ALSO EXPRESSES PESSIMISTIC NOTE THAT CEASEFIRE SUCCESS CHANCES DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON RESULTS SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS AT DAMASCUS. SYRIAN EMISSARY COL. MOHAMMED KHOLI ALSO SKEPTICAL THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN TRUE AL STRIKE FORCE WILL SUCCESSFULLY ENFORCE CEASEFIRE.

4. REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT LIKEWISE ABSENT FROM CORAL BEACH MEETINGS AND JUMBLATT REITERATES HIS POSITION NO POLITICAL SOLUTION POSSIBLE WHILE SYRIAN FORCES REMAIN IN LEBANON. JUMBLATT MET WITH KHOLI ON JULY 24 AND REQUESTED AL FORCES BE POSITIONED BETWEEN SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS AS WELL AS BETWEEN RIGHTISTS AND PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS. JUMBLATT SAID IT WOULD TAKE SIX TO TEN THOUSAND AL TROOPS TO STOP HOSTILITIES IN BEIRUT, TELL ZAATAR AND SYRIAN CONTROLLED AREAS, ALLUDING AGAIN TO HIS DESIRE FOR ARAB STRIKE FORCE RATHER THAN PEACE SUPERVISORY MISSION. WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS THAT PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH CEASEFIRE.

5. PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS SEEN APPROACHING THREE POINT ACCORD WITH SYRIAN AUTHORITIES:
1) CEASEFIRE INCLUDING ALL LEBANON; 2) AGREEMENT LEBANESE CRISIS MUST HAVE LEBANESE SOLUTION; AND 3) SETTLEMENT OF QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN/SYRIAN
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RELATIONSHIP. POINT THREE SEEMS TO BE AREA OF GREATEST DEBATE WITH PALESTINIANS HOPING TO HOLD ON TO AT LEAST AS MANY PRIVILEGES AS GRANTED THEM IN CAIRO ACCORDS. PRESS QUOTES DAASCUS SOURCE THAT WAY TO ARAFAT/ ASSAD MEETING NOT BEING CLEARED BY PRESENT DAMASCUS DELEGATION. SUMMIT MEETING SAID POSSIBLE NOW ONLY THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF LIBYAN PREMIER JALLOUD AND ON CONDITION CEASEFIRE APPLIED IN ALL AREAS OF LEBANON.

6. ON GROUND, QUIET DOES SEEM PREVAIL EARLY JULY 25, HOWEVER, SOME 500 PERSONS IN TELL ZAATAR ALLEGED BY FEDAYEEN TO BE TRAPPED UNDERGROUND IN SHELTER AFTER BUILDING ABOVE COLLAPSED LATE JULY 24. TELL ZAATAR AND NABAA WERE SUBJECT TO BOMBARDMENTS AND SMALL ARMS FIRE ON Y

SZOWR BEFORE CEASE FIRE. OTHER AREAS
OF BEIRUT WERE RELATIVELY CALM BUT ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT
IN HAMRA AREA OF WEST BEIRUT LATE AFTERNOON JULY 24
KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED 20, INCLUDING AUB PROFESSOR OF
LEBANESE NATIONALITY SLIGHTLY WOUNDED. LOW LEVEL
MILITARY OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY ON JULY 24.

7. AS WE GO TO PRESS, WE HAVE LATE WORD FROM
CORRESPONDENTS WHO VISITED THE GREEN LINE
THIS MORNING THAT LATERAL MOVEMENT OF ARAB LEAGUE
FORCES TOWARDS TAYYOUNEH CIRCLE WAS MET WITH MACHINE
GUN AND MORTAR FIRE. CORRESPONDENTS ASSUME FIRE TO
HAVE COME FROM CHAMOUNISTS STATIONED ON OTHER SIDE
OF RACE TRACK FROM ABDULLAH YAFI AVENUE AND
REPORT THAT SAUDIS SUFFERED SEVERAL CASUALTIES,
INCLUDING ONE DEAD, WHEN MORTAR ROUND HIT TRUCK
FULL OF TROOPS. SPORADIC FIRE CONTINUED UP TO
TIME THAT CORRESPONDENTS WITHDREW.
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